

A Letter To The Press For Much To Publish

THE NATIONAL CAPITALIST INTEREST

The wage-working majority in society would never tolerate the marginal quality of their lives if they realized they were mere instruments for enhancing the political power and privilege of a wealthy minority. To help correct the fact that wages and welfare are only returns to maintain workers as efficient producers of profit for the dominant few, a gigantic myth is projected — the national interest. An equatorial mask whose pretence is that all actions, including any socialism, are submitted by all for the common good. Like any myth, a lively imagination is required to follow it through.

Examples abound, especially in this recession election involving sacrifices for the national welfare, in which one party openly declares it will depress workers' incomes, which will improve profits, and the other parties pretend they won't.

There is the case of "our" country's energy independence where inadequate real wages are to be "temporarily" sacrificed by higher consumer prices for "our" oil. If it's ours, why can't we help ourselves? No doubt the affluent class will also sacrifice by firing their chauffeurs and personally driving their gas guzzling, sound proofed, air conditioned limousines.

Another example is "our" country's financial deficit. The burden of prolonging the existence of those whose labor has been ditched to the extent of pauperism must be lightened, through welfare cutbacks, and civil servant layoffs so that we may all benefit. No doubt the affluent will also sacrifice, by cancelling this summer's Mediterranean cruise.

How about "our" export trade imbalance? Well, there is some hope. A lot of young adults cannot buy houses because of high borrowing rates and low wages. But lower wage bills might enhance the competitiveness of "our" exports, and through involuntary this sacrifices a patriotic sacrifice on their part. In the meantime, Mr. & Mrs. Moneybags are expected to buy less expensive apartment blocks as birthday or Xmas gifts for their girlfriends or boyfriends.

Not to be overlooked are the Jack and Jill months long line ups for transit while hospital workers are laid off. A few sacrifices to cut the costs of running "our" country. Through the elderly rich will be expected to vacate their personal possessions on the flight from their winter mansions in their summer villa, they might be persuaded to leave their dogs and cats in the care of the servants at home.

However, the recently polled 40 per cent of undecided voters might indicate that the day when elections are used to solve social problems may not be as distant as it was formerly thought to be.

And a Letter That Made It

Autos That Make Cash Registers Jingle

The recent profit losses of the U.S. auto manufacturing giants, after decades of lucratively looting the labor of auto workers, is reminiscent of the 28 relative piles of junk that Gordie Hunter and his wife have owned, wholly or in part, during their married years. (Colonist, May 2, 1971).

While profit is not a certainty, it does precede production in order of priority, worldwide. No profit, no production. The one enduring factor in those 28 wrecks that Gordie and his spouse struggled with, is interest and dividends.

No wonder that when largess is promising, that the commodities through which it is realized are mere vehicles to that end. Their usefulness to humanity being secondary and marginal. Except for a few expensive automobile lines reserved for the rich. And this is an indication of what could be produced if the needs of society were the sole motivation.

Among the scientific experts who have noted the yawning chasm which separates what is technically possible and what is financially limited is the president of Cal Tech, Dr. Lee DuBridge. He said back in 1961 that the technology existed to build cars and washing machines that will run for 500 years, in pollution free cities, in addition to feeding "every hungry mouth on earth."

But according to Marinas, (26/7/80) the "rust cycle" will leave in contraband position of the automotive temporarily, as 9 million "throw away" wrecks head for the junkyard this year. Meanwhile, it is said that the car industry is now making cars out of old cars instead of trying to pay for new obsolescence, thereby preserving the liquidity of parts firms and towing enterprises.

It would be easier for the beleaguered majority to do the necessary homework on the nature of this obsolete social system, to replace it with one of common (not state) ownership and democratic control, so that they could live for a change.

Highways For The People

Workers own nothing in the means of production and distribution, aside for their expendable minds and hands, for up to the class that owns everything.

This propertylessness includes such "public" places as the wilderness in Canada known as crown land highways, streets and sidewalks. Another bit of evidence is the cropped recently in Washington D.C. when angry farmers driving 2,000 tractor trucks down George Washington Memorial Parkway to press Congress for higher prices backed up normal traffic for 10 miles.

The term "traffic" became converted to "workers" when the Agriculture Dept. reported "a 15 per cent absentee rate. Undoubtedly other industries suffered profit losses because part of the blood source of their profit couldn't get to work on time or at all for that day.

The police, in their basic job of protecting property, finally surrounded the forest vehicles with patrol cars, and cleared the parkway, for the behind-the-scenes interests of the owners of the means of life.

THE SCHOOLING SYSTEM TOO

On a pre-election tour of northern B.C., Premier Bennett spoke to a "Farm-School Credit convention," during which schoolmen asked the convention (meaning the government) to build vocational schools in their specialized areas so that people are not lured out of the north when local training. No sense in those big capitalists the south sharing the most expensive out northerners when we need them.

Quarterly Journal of the Socialist Party of Canada

Socialist Fulcrum

1981
Vol. 14, No. 1

VOLUNTEER
PRODUCTION 40c

For a Happier World Of Voluntary Co-operation And Free Access
Through Common Ownership and Democratic Control

PETRO CAN CAN'T

GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP
IS
CAPITALIST OWNERSHIP



OH CANADA!

HASSLE OVER OIL

THE SPECTRE OF SEPARATISM

Unemployment:

IT COULD NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN!

CAPITALISM & SOCIALISM DIFFERENTIATED

WHO FINANCED HITLER?

Capitalism and Socialism Contrasted

Workers are deluded into believing that we are all one large national family, with a community of interests. You hear about our country, our national budget, our trade, our Panama Canal, and so on. This is sheer nonsense and camouflage, and should be regarded as an insult to your intelligence. As a class the workers own nothing except their ability to work, and this ability generally expires when the worker reaches his station, if he is lucky, and then workers receive a pittance of so-called "social security" to help ease out the rest of their lives, which generally do not last much beyond the retirement age.

Let us attempt to distinguish between capitalism and socialism.

Under capitalism the means of production and distribution are owned and controlled by a minority - the capitalist class.

Under socialism the means of production and distribution will be owned in common and democratically controlled by the whole of society without distinction of race or sex.

Under capitalism the wealth that is produced by the majority is owned by the minority, and the access to that wealth by the majority is restricted according to the limitations of their purchasing power through the wages system.

Under socialism all the wealth

produced will be owned socially by the whole of society and every single person on the face of the earth will be entitled as co-owners to complete free access to whatever they require, and the wages system will be non-existent. No wages or remuneration under socialism, but each person will take from society according to their needs.

Under capitalism you have large scale industry and commodity production and goods and services are produced and distributed for a profit and money is used as a means of exchange.

Under socialism goods and services will be produced and distributed solely for use, to satisfy the needs of the population, and profit will of course be non-existent, and money will have been completely eliminated as it functions as a means of exchange and would serve no purpose under socialism.

Under capitalism you have the existence of the state that comprises government bodies, armies, navies, air forces, police forces which administer, protect, and enforce the system - and wage war when necessary.

Under socialism the state, with all this structure, will no longer exist, but in its place men and women will have established administrations throughout the world which will operate democratically to organize the production and distribution of goods and services, in quantities and qualities that will be

assessed and decided upon by, and in the interests of, society as a whole. All institutions of force, violence, punishment, and government will be non-existent. There will be no government and no governed. Government is distinguished by us from Administration. Capitalism produces government over people, under socialism you will have the administration of things - not people. Two entirely different concepts both in theory and in application.

Under socialism war would be an impossibility.

Under socialism people would voluntarily, and gladly, give to society according to their individual ability, and there would be no coercion over people, but the whole of society would be involved in a co-operative and community effort to produce and distribute the goods and services that society requires.

Capitalism at its best means limited democracy.

Socialism would generate the true principles of democracy which can only flourish under an international system of economic equality.

Send us your questions and comments, and if in any way we have reached your sympathies and support, and we hope we have, do not hesitate to send us your contributions. You will be helping in the only worthwhile political cause the cause of socialism.

S. Leight
World Socialist Party, U.S.

Socialist Fulcrum

Quarterly Journal of the Socialist Party of Canada

1981

Vol. 14, No. 2

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OH CANADA!
HASSLE OVER OIL
THE SPECTRE OF SEPARATISM
IT COULD NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN!
CAPITALISM & SOCIALISM DIFFERENTIATED
WHO FINANCED HOTLER?



A Question of Class

O-O-OH Canada

Socialists are the only section of the working class who explain the class nature of society. It is certainly not in the interests of the capitalist class to do so and one cannot expect them to knowingly dig their own graves, for they endeavour to cover up with a blanket of hypocrisy the class nature of capitalism.

It has been said that socialists perpetuate the class struggle. On the contrary, we desire to end it.

It is a fact that the majority of people throughout the world are wage workers who are forced to sell their mental and physical energies to the highest bidder, because they are the dispossessed.

There is also a small minority who by reason of their large ownership of shares, control the huge conglomerates and multinational corporations. They are the capitalist class; sometimes called the ruling class by socialists for rule is precisely what they do. They own and control the machinery of wealth production and you are dependent on them for existence. In fact at elections you feel so dependent on them that you vote for the self-styled experts, Conservative, Liberal and NDP, who promise you concessions during the election, blatantly ignore their promises on being elected and quarrel among themselves as to the best way of squeezing more profits from you by promoting business interests. I am amazed at your political naivete.

You have the vote, but it is the big boys at the top who wield the power to influence and sometimes control governments. All you do is protest and demand reforms, which instead of ending your exploitation compounds and perpetuates it.

If you watched The Canadian Establishment on TV you saw how the capitalist class operates. Although there was much left unsaid, it did give you an inkling of the vast power of their operations and the savage rivalry to maintain their power and affluence.

We rarely, if ever, rub shoulders with them for they are a class apart. Neither do we desire to associate with them, nor they with us. They are the self-styled elite who have their society bells, publish their society columns in the newspapers, and flaunt and derive their wealth.

A section of this privileged class has been labeled the idle rich, playboys, and more recently the jet set. A recent article in MacLeans showed that it was now popular among the jet set to have a small business or hobby which would not interfere with their search for a life of pleasure, but would demonstrate to all that they were no longer the idle rich. It is doubtful if they had a twinge of conscience.

It is the working class who toils and produces all the wealth, for the source of all wealth is human labor applied to raw material. There is no other source of wealth production: machines can produce wealth but machines are built and maintained by workers.

The capitalist squeezes profits from us when the goods we produce are sold on the market. We receive back in the form of wages for only a part of the wealth we produce.

We are not employed out of goodness of heart of the capitalist, or because he likes us. It is an impersonal transaction: he wants the profits and we want the job. He cannot act in any other way, nor can we.

It is not a moral question as to whether the capitalist or worker is good or bad, for our actions are conditioned by the economics of capitalist society.

There is a conflict of interests between the two classes. Workers who organize in trade unions to maintain and improve their standard of living and working conditions, are sometimes forced to strike and a bitter struggle often ensues even if they are only asking for increased wages to equal the increased cost of living. The chances of winning are strong when there is comparatively full employment, but slim when there is a large army of unemployed.

It is obvious, if workers can win their demands without striking, it is in their interest to do so because of the hardship which ensues through loss of wages. But the strike is the only weapon open to them when negotiations, often protracted, break down.

The capitalist class viciously opposes strikes because an increase in wages makes inroads into their profits and they often call in goon squads or the police to maintain law and order. Frequently reports and photos are published in the press of these outrages.



No matter what happens
I know this is my country

Increased wages are the cause of inflation argue the newspaper and government economists, but they have recently dumped this argument for it is obvious that wages are not keeping up with runaway prices, caused in the main by governments debasing the currency by printing excessive numbers of bank notes, also there is an ever widening gap between what wages will buy and the amount of wealth produced by workers.

With escalating prices the standard of living of the working class is being depressed, while the export trade in Canada is increasing due to the devaluation of the dollar and, at the moment, the banking institutions are certainly not complaining.

Another aspect of the class struggle is the fierce competition between international trade groups (corporations) which eventually leads to war, when we are expected to fight and die for their

OH CANADA!

A QUESTION OF CLASS



which eventually leads to war, when we are expected to fight and die for 'our' country to maintain and extend their markets, trade routes, territory and spheres of influence.

There is also a struggle between workers to remain employed especially during recession. In the past, workers have fought each other at factory gates for the prospect of being employed. Trade unions in the immediate future will face a spate of problems with the dice loaded heavily against them.

Workers, when fired, frequently are often broke or have to sell their mortgaged home, or the mortgage company forecloses and sells their house at a profit.

I can recall that twenty years ago the unemployed were called "lazy bums who did not want work". Today the government spokesmen are more sophisticated, for they voice their concern about the unemployed, not because the unemployed are living from hand to mouth but because they are no longer producing and "are a burden to the community".

On the other hand, a capitalist's life is well cushioned by his investment spread and his capital can double in a short time without him getting off his arse.

A capitalist by means of his investments in real estate and/or corporations can live a life of opulence without working. Sometimes he works; sometimes he doesn't. It doesn't matter to him for despite his wealth he produces nothing and is a parasite.

On the other hand we often work at jobs which are crippling to our health. You don't see a capitalist going down a mine shaft to hew coal or other minerals, with the risk of getting lung cancer or being involved in a mine disaster, neither is the capitalist faced with other industrial diseases which ravage sections of the working class, for we are the underprivileged.

If an accident happens to you on the job you have to face the Workers' Compensation Board, but you have to be very lucky when you see this bunch. What a prospect! What an existential! But I can hear someone pipe up: "I'm proud of being a Canadian". Bully for you! Throw out your chest and sing "Oh Canada" if it makes you feel better, but...

We repeat: Socialists are the only section of the working class who explain the class nature of society. It is certainly not in the interest of

the capitalist class to do so and we cannot expect them to knowmen dig their own graves, for they endeavor to cover with a blanket of hypocrisy the class nature of capitalism, but sometimes the truth wins out.

We want to end the class struggle. Do you?

S.C.

THE SPECTRE OF SEPARATISM

A spectre is haunting Canada, the spectre of separatism. The WORKING CLASS of CANADA are being carried into believing that the struggle that is taking place between the eastern capitalists and the western capitalists is of some concern to them.

The capitalists will always try to enlist the help of the workers when they need them. The great debate that is taking place at the moment is not intended to improve the lot of the workers.

What is happening is a struggle between eastern and western capitalists. The capitalists of the west are afraid that the eastern capitalists are going to receive a greater share of the profits produced by the workers of Canada.

In order to protect their privileged position, the western capitalists are saying the west should separate, but no matter what happens the working class will be no better off.

The only way we, as workers, can improve our conditions is by the abolition of capitalism altogether (the property system of wages, price, profit).

During the short history of British Columbia the province has been governed by Conservatives, Liberals, Social Credit, N.D.P. and they have all operated the capitalist system in the interest of the capitalist class.

Why not look at the alternative to capitalism? SOCIALISM.

The Socialist Party of Canada invites you to read about SOCIALISM. Why not write to:

THE SOCIALIST PARTY
OF CANADA
P.O. Box 4280, Sta. "A"
Victoria, B.C. V8X 3X2

J.A.

Socialists in Britain were saddened by the news of the death of our staunch Comrade, GEORGE DOLPHY, pioneer of scientific socialism in Jamaica.

George had spent five years in Britain and bought his first "Socialist Standard" in Hyde London in 1959. Later, when his father died, he returned to Jamaica and was determined to propagate Socialism in his native land.

Along with a small group of comrades he produced the first socialist journal in Jamaica; the "Socialist Review" and the first issue appeared in June 1970. However, after a few years publication he lost the support of his colleagues due to the economic turmoil of the period, but he struggled on alone to bring out the last few issues.

Over a period of eleven years

he wrote many interesting letters to us here in England and also contributed some articles to the "Socialist Standard" and to this official journal of the Socialist Party of Canada; "Socialist Fulcrum".

In 1974 he wrote that he had been the victim of "numerous robberies" and in his final letter in 1980 that he had been seriously ill and his own words... "This was the worst period of my life and I am still not yet out of the wood".

In concluding this 'salute' to our past comrade, we trust that his efforts to awaken class consciousness among his fellow workers in Jamaica will yet bear fruit.

To any Relatives of his, Our Sincere Condolences.

(G.R. Russell, SPGB

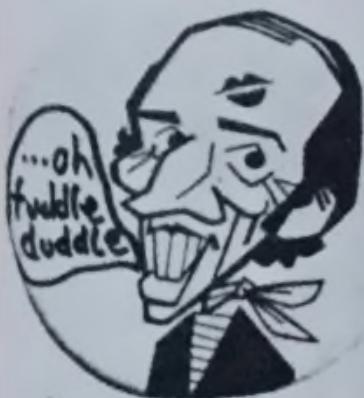
Manchester).

Hassle Over Oil

In the previous issue it was pointed out that workers own no country, that the battle between East and West in Canada was between the oil giants of the West vs. the industrialists of the East who are after cheap and reliable oil supplies to keep their factories in a competitively profitable condition.

At their present level of political understanding, the wage earning class tends to focus its attention on the chief spokesman of either the whole class of exploiters or of any group of them. In the case of eastern wealth, those workers wrongly supporting western opulence, regarded the eastern front man Pierre Trudeau as their villain. One of the facts they trotted out was Pierre's refusal to serve his country during the second World War.

Prime Minister Trudeau, as an administrator for the capitalist class in general, happens to be one too. He wasn't a Horatio Alger type, rising from the depths and conquering all to financial success. He was the son of a capitalist during the war and as such did not have to fight for his country. That's one of those things that workers are maintained for, to fight for their bosses' countries, markets and resources, and die for them.



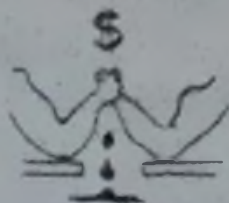
Most members of the privileged and powerful few are anonymous by choice like Trudeau, the Kennedys, and Ronald Reagan who take a hand in running the system that is so beneficial to them. But by so doing, they put themselves in the limelight, and occasionally, by being there, some facts about this system are accidentally revealed.

For instance, young Pierre never had to go out looking for a job. He charged around Montreal and the world as a playboy, and studying capitalist ideology in the best universities, for future use. Trudeau's father sold him a string of gas stations to Imperial Oil for \$1.4 million, which was reinvested in stocks and real estate. The fortune now controlled by Pierre has grown to an estimated \$16 million, without Pierre lifting a finger to produce any of it. It was all exploited from the hides of the workers in the industries that he owned. He "lives the comfortable life of a dilettante because of those very profits," to quote a working class news columnist who thinks that by supporting the rich of the west he is working for his own interests. (Times-Colonist, 28/11/80). As a member of the parasite class, Trudeau also has utter contempt for those he lives off, according to various remarks he has made, including the notable one about destitute pensioners. He said if they can't afford rent increases, they should cut down on other expenditures. Shades of Marie Antoinette.

THE NDP STAND

The CCF/NDP has always been for the greatest good of the greatest number of investors, concealed by a national interest. Favoring any section of the class that rules might arouse suspicion, with the patriotic cover missing.

Federally of course, it sided with the Liberals on the new constitution designed to give Ontario and Quebec capital control of the country's natural resources if possible. B.C.'s NDP opposition leader Dave Barrett, called western separatists "knicks and dupes of the multi-national oil companies." (Times-Colonist, 6/12/80). He said "the danger is in those elements of the business and political communities who think they can use their knicks for their own purposes." But he considered the other workers who support his side in the federal contest, i.e., the western business community or the national capital as a whole not as dupes but informed citizens. The same with workers who vote NDP. But he, like other NDP leaders, occasionally lets the cat out of the bag as to where NDP loyalties lie.



For instance, after the working class votes were gratefully harvested in the B.C. election of 1972, putting the NDP in office for the first time, Barrett hastily reassured the owning class that his government would be "business as usual." Commercially, he warned the class that depends on the sale of its productive skills as an employer. "Don't be down and thank heaven has arrived, just because the NDP got elected." (Address to the B.C. Federation of Labor Convention, Victoria Times, 8/11/72). Like other politicians, he craves on the workers' short memories to get him in office again.

Saskatchewan NDP premier Allan Rockwell sat on the fence for a long time, undecided as to which group of exploiters to favor, the eastern or western. As a representative of the oil and potash industries in Saskatchewan, and the farmers wanting lower freight rates for their grain, he was a separatist. He is now apparently part of the compromise that has won the most votes in the west. Some NDP members in the west have strong their hands in anguish over the federal part of their Party's support of the Liberal (eastern capitalist) revision of the constitution.

B.C.

The premier of B.C. vacillates between the oil and natural gas companies who are for extraction rather than use, their profits reduced by income taxes or take over, and the forest people who are the biggest source of the province's economy. The lumber firms fit in with the federal stimulation of their profits needs. Another source of concentration is capital of potential offshore oil.

ALBERTA

Loudered at issue is in the large market of oil and gas, plus the farmers' low freight rates for their grain shipments to the coast, and small farmers' losses and subsidies. These people object to Canada's producing eastern wealth without export foreign construction, but which emp-

HASSLE OVER OIL

prices high for supplies they require for their enterprises. These supplies would be much cheaper purchased from the U.S.

MANITOBA has sided with the west, and its large "C" Conservative premier has had embarrassing moments with Ontario's large C Conservative premier, since they represent the immediate interests of opposing blocks of capital. The same ticklish situation prevails between big oil Conservative Lougheed and big industry Conservative Davis. Hoping to make it difficult to discern the slightest difference between the parties of the left, center and right.

The MARITIMES have also been at loggerheads with the central government's industrial energy policy for the nation, since oil potential has been discovered off their coasts.

THE WORKERS OWN NO COUNTRY

Wage and salary workers are people who own no country, like those in allegedly prosperous Edmonton, where home mortgage foreclosures have recently tripled. Or the 200 New Brunswick workers demonstrating over their family plots being expropriated by the government for a people's park, being chased out of the park by the RCMP with mace and tear gas. Or elderly pensioners being told that pet food is good for them. Workers in booming Calgary are so frustrated that stages in liquor lounges are enclosed with chicken wire to protect entertainers from flying bottles and glasses when fights break out. Or Alberta, where child abuse has increased by 30 percent.

The people who do own countries are the rich, such as Nelson Skalbania who had his Vancouver mansion demolished because he didn't like the way it had been remodelled, and because his new wife wanted a Greek villa instead. Or one of the owners of Occidental Petroleum who paid \$6.1 million for a Leonardo da Vinci manuscript at Christie's auction. He said: "I'm happy with the price I paid. This will make a fitting addition to my collection."

The bogus unity of a nation always arises from the real disunity of world capitalism. There is no common ground between the two classes, those who own the means of life and those

excluded. A gain by one is the loss of the other. A majority of the workers have to learn this, and therefore be able to pay no attention to fights between groups of their masters, concealed as



separation or national unity, before they can begin to solve their problems.

G.

From Our U.S. Companion Party On Wages

The socialist equates wages with poverty. It is an impossibility to have one without the other. There will never be any government, political party, so-called leaders or program of reforms that can ever remove the basic social characteristics of unemployment, insecurity and poverty from the wages system. When you support capitalism, and accept its continuation, you are placing the stamp of approval upon the very core of capitalist society—wage labour and capital.

Be assured that in today's world where you find wages you have capitalism, with the exploitation of the majority by a minority. Russia and China of course included. The existence of the wages system in these countries is the

explicit proof that capitalism prevails, and that the Russian and Chinese workers, just like workers elsewhere, own nothing of real value except their labour power—for which they receive wages. This "exchange" guarantees them impoverishment and enduring hardship.

The wages of the working class as a whole always approximates to an average subsistence figure, creating an unceasing struggle for the worker's survival—notwithstanding their indispensability to the employing class.

The worker receives payment for what he sells, labour power, not for what he produces. Herein lies a closely guarded secret. Most workers spend a life-time blissfully unaware of the fact that as a class they are *legally robbed* when they produce values in excess of their compensation. That this occurs should be obvious, for without these "surplus values," created by the working class, the capitalist class would be deprived of their luxurious and privileged livelihood.

Ask yourself this most pertinent and significant question. When have you ever heard the wages system, as such, criticized or condemned? You have received information about so-called high wages, low wages, unemployment with its suspension of wages, but the fundamental concept of the acceptance of the wages system, and whether or not it is justified, necessary, or should be tolerated is never suggested or contemplated. The wages system remains unchallenged—except by the socialist.

We advocate a system of society that will place the ownership of the means of production and distribution into the democratic control of all human beings. Production and distribution will be solely for use and to satisfy needs—no other criterion will be operative. Money, trading and profit will be non-existent. There will be no class paying wages, no class receiving wages—the wages system will be eliminated in its dehumanizing entirety. People will give to society according to their abilities enjoying *free access* to whatever they require. This will constitute a revolutionary substitute for wages, helping to create a world worthy of the mental and physical attributes of modern men and women.

With Karl Marx we state: "Instead of the conservative motto, 'A fair day's wage for a fair day's work,' they ought to inscribe on their banner the revolutionary watchword, 'Abolition of the wages system!'" S. Leight.

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PETRO CAN CAN'T

One of two men lost in a tropical wilderness and trying to operate an old radio transmitter said to his friend as he approached: "Everytime I contact them to say that we're lost and can't find our way back to civilization all they say is 'Lucky you...!'"

Needless to say, if the exploited majority knew of a way out of the rat-race wilderness of capitalism, they would hesitate to indulge in the political action necessary to bring a life worth while. But they are accepting less and less of the unlikely confusion shown upon them by the media of the privileged and powerful - political confusion designed to "keep them in their places."

One of the remaining stumbling blocks is the myth that because sometimes two thirds of the victims vote for governments, that the state is somehow a mother superior who looks after us all. This despite the obscene wealth at the top of society and destitution at the bottom, with gradations of insecurity, fear, boredom, alienation and frustration in between.

Now that the hysteria is historical, it may be incredulous that a short time ago a great campaign was in progress, by the NDP and other individuals who at one time could be called leftists, to save Petrocan from being sold to the private sector by Joe Clark's short-lived Conservative government. They may have been trying to prove that a leftist is a long sighted conservative, because now the state owned oil corporation is solidly supported not only by the Liberals but also the Progressive-Conservative Party. Despite the fact that it has become obvious that a state owned oil company is not going to supply oil and gasoline to all Canadians, especially poor Canadians, but is instead, going to sell the stuff for a profit, the myth that state ownership is Socialism will likely persist for a while longer at least.

TRUDEAU'S EMPTY PROMISE

One of the reasons for the concept was to keep oil prices from spiralling because of shortages caused by the profit-grazing private shareholders in multinationals. More of the wage-workers who bothered to vote in the last election apparently opted for Trudeau's promise of only moderate oil price in-

creases than the hardline types who put there "X" opposite Joe Clark's promise of "fiscal responsibility" and immediately high oil price increases. By raising real prices and adding taxes, the price of oil and gasoline is now up higher in a mere 14 months than the Conservatives advocated. (Toronto Globe & Mail, 24/5/81) - thanks to Pierre and his Liberals.

Expressions such as "energy for all Canadians," and "our economic future" have become part of the daily diet. Probably unnoticed in the past are the comments from uncompromising free enterprisers about how governments exist for no purpose other than to look after everybody.

Oil, if possible at lower than world prices, is pretty handy stuff to fuel eastern Canadian industry, to try to keep the exporting part of it competitive for profits, for investors as a class. As abstracted individuals of that class who can afford gasoline at any price for their guzzlers, it is pretty handy stuff too.



"What'll it be this week, Dear... furnace oil - or food?"

Anyone who can afford \$109,000 for a Rolls-Royce is not too concerned about the price of its fuel, which in the case of this year's Silver Spirit will require 1 gallon of gas for every 10 miles of locomotion. Electronic dashboard clusters also require some energy such as about digital clocks and instruments to indicate outside temperatures and elapsed time since the journey started. Next, audyets to tell how much and what kind of pollutants poison the air outside?

Low priced and reliable supplies of auto fuel are handy for the owners, but in another way, as wage slaves. The cheaper that wage-slaves can be trans-

ported from their mortgaged places of regeneration to the industrial plant where they are separated from what they produce, the lower the wages they can survive on and the higher the profits their masters can realize.

It is not harmony among the reaping class as a whole. Oil company shareholders whose capital is invested in western Canadian oil wells want the highest or world price for the commodity they sell for their profits. Trouble is, these commodity farmers in the cost equation of commodities being produced in the eastern industrial belt. The eastern entrepreneurs have bought the political talents of Trudeau and his federal Liberals and it looks like the group is winning out mostly if not entirely.



WORKERS STILL HOLD THE EMPTY BAG

Socialists have not been surprised though, to notice that the 40 percent who make up the usual class are still left with nothing more than what is required to renege their productive - wages, salaries or work. Even as Ottawa pretends to nationalize the waste of "our" oil industry, the class of workers, including those in the brainwashing industry, who are forced to pay more for gas and heating oil that they don't own until they buy it. One national writer in the lay-up top of the *Toronto Star* and the "gas pump show us some of costing" said, another "You bet will the gas be any cheaper?" And were workers free up their furnace fuels (poverty) cards?

In the fall of 1979, the Socialist Party of Canada had a meeting sponsored from the Socialist Party of Great Britain address a meeting at the University of Victoria. Thirty more of the students who would have attended and three promised to get names on a petition by the NDP to use referendum for the benefit of all Canadians. They missed an opportunity to learn a bit more about the negative system that is based upon production and how to challenge it.

PETROCAN CANT

As with any other neo-capitalist Party of the left or right, the NDP hides the real process of exploitation beneath the cloak that profits are made by buying commodities cheaply and selling them dearth. Hence a state-owned oil corporation would sell cheap gas to workers' cheap cars. In the same breath however, they postulated price increases to finance development of more energy resources through Petrocan, that the workers will not own, as the Liberal Government is now doing.

The multi-nationalists were painted in the NDP's "Commonwealth" as black-masters, handbuds, artificially keeping prices up, victimizing workers. More down to earth, Tony Thompson, president of the government-controlled Canadian Development Corporation said: "Let's not kid ourselves, you don't really own something the state owns it for you". (Today Magazine, 6/12/80).

Apparently Petrocan is largely owned outside the country: "...built up by massive loans from Germany, Japan, Giant Rockefeller (Exxon) and other ... corporations. Even the land on which the new Petrocan building in Calgary rests is owned by Germany". (Western Producer, 5/1/81).

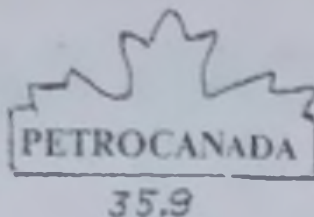
DAVID SUZUKI

The NDP had the aid of scientist David Suzuki of the CBC's "The Nature of Things" to promote their seduction of the workers into the business' deadly embrace through nationalism-patriotism via Petrocan.

He is the geneticist who decries the lack of scientific knowledge of politicians and blames this for lack of governmental action against pollution and war. He is critical of scientists who work for industry to invent products and by-products that harm humanity. Such as thalidomide, PCB's, fallout, freon, DDT, rather than tackling problems of starvation or cancer.

Sadly, his scientific understanding stops at the borders of genetics. He began by stretching a point, that the state-owned corporation was concerned about ecology in the high Arctic, but the private oil barons were not. On state ownership, he left himself an escape hatch when he said that "in theory, a crown corporation 'has the public interest as its primary consideration'. And what is its supposed secondary consideration? Profits of course. Just

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as the Liberal and Conservative idealists who concocted the Regina Manifesto 88 years ago implied, private ownership capitalism with profiteering is capitalism, but state capitalism with small profits is socialism.

The sorry fact is that in both styles of class ownership the maximum profits are the rules of the game. It is no more possible to consciously restrict profits than it is to be partly pregnant.

The future tragedies that he predicts are partly the making of Dr Suzuki, so long as he prominently supports the social forces that give rise to the. Scientists are like other wage-slaves who support the system, they have no control over the commodities they produce. Profit takes precedence over human well being.

NO BARGAINS ON PETROCAN GAS

And the results of the mighty crusade? Energy Minister Marc Lalonde said: "Petro Canada has not been set up as a charitable organization", he said. "It was expected to make reasonable profits..." (Times Colonist 14/3/81).

Alberta's last production cut to a total of 120 000 barrels a day has given Trudeau an excuse to slap another 9 cents per gallon on gasoline.

Meanwhile, Carl Nickle, Alberta oil millionaire said Canada is the richest of all nations in energy potential. He predicted oil rationing, but the wages system already does that to energy consumption and the needs of life for most workers. The whole world is rich in potential, but it will never be realized for mankind, until society owns and controls the earth.

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HOW CAPITALISM PRODUCES LEACHES

In Florida a middle aged woman, after paying for the house that she and her husband raised 7 kids in, and now nursing her ailing spouse, is being evicted on pain of paying a \$10,000 penalty. She had a \$325 delinquent tax bill.

A mortgage broker paid the \$3.05 tax owing and county costs of \$122.00 for ownership of the house and offered it to Hattie Kenon for \$10,000.

Being a mortgage broker, as distasteful as it must be, is probably more remunerative than earning one's living by driving a truck or working on an auto assembly line. As the conditions are probably better. Capitalism dictates the rules of its anarchistic competitive system. Everything is measured in financial yardstick. Human well being is not within its scope.

It Could Never Happen Again!

Unemployment

in the heady days of the 1945 Labour Government in Great Britain. Unemployment was not a topic for discussion. Many Labour M.P.'s and most of the party faithful thought that with the coalition government declaration of 1944..... The Government accept as one of their primary aims and responsibilities the maintenance of a high and stable level of employment after the war, and the new 'Socialist' government under Clement Attlee, this social problem had been laid to rest.

The SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA and its companion parties took a different line. We stated categorically that unemployment and capitalism were handmaidens and how right we were. The 'Old Mother' country is at present going through a bad patch, although as workers we would claim the patch was never much good at any time.

UNEMPLOYMENT is around the 25 million mark and all signs are of an upward trend. Pretty well all classes of industry are contributing to the queues of workless. Economists vie with each other in forecasting how many will be out of work in the mid 80's. Labour politicians claim (now they are in opposition) that things would be different if they were again in power, whilst the Tories try and convince the electorate to have faith in them and their policies; that although 1981 and 82 might be hard years, there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

WHY is there unemployment? Can it be solved within this system? And what is the Socialist alternative.

Ted Heath, former Tory Prime Minister, put the matter in a nutshell. He said, "Unemployment is of vital importance, particularly to the unemployed". In other words, the vast majority of people, members of the working class, rely on a wage or salary packet in order to live. When they lose their jobs and rely on the state handout (the dole) things get even more difficult.

MANY reasons are put forward as to why so many are out of a job. A speaker at a recent outdoor meeting in Hyde Park claimed that people are lazy and do not want to work. He was repeating parrot fashion, what a number of people said in the last great economic crisis of the 1930's. He did not think why it is if people are lazy that they only show these symptoms so often, i.e., when their employers give them their cards. Employers do not tell their workforce to go lazy, they tell them that owing to recession they can no longer

afford to pay them. Mrs. Thatcher, the Tory Prime Minister says that exorbitant wage demands by workers, prior themselves out of a job. There is a woolen mill in Bradford, Yorkshire who have just made their work force redundant. These same workers, in order to safeguard their jobs, recently accepted a 10% reduction in their wage packet; apparently to no avail.

CAPITALISM once again is in crisis: its productive capacity has swamped the markets with various commodities, and the automobile industry is a prime example.

WHEN you think of a field, its colour is determined by the nature of the crop - grass, corn, maize, etc., etc. There is a field outside Yeovil, a pleasant market town in Somerset, the colours of which are those of the rainbow. Blues, Reds, Yellow, Whites, etc. No, it's not a new type of crop. It is one of many parking lots for unsold new cars: this one took 6,000. Fiats in Great Britain have 30,000; British Leyland and Ford between them have 120,000 and even Volkswagen have 26,000 in the larder. In the U.S.A., unsold models brought one of the largest manufacturers, Chrysler to the verge of bankruptcy, only being bailed out by Government loans and financial schemes of the Banks. Massey Ferguson, a household name in Canada, has reeled under the influence of world recession, and competition from developing countries.

The Trade Union Congress in Great Britain, is now urging the Tory Chancellor of the Exchequer to boost British industry by pumping several million pounds into the economy as the economy is the only way to reduce the dole queues. How short are their memories. When the Labour Party were in power in 1973, the unemployed totalled 629,000 and government expenditure in that year was 20,000 millions. Labour government policy then, was that now advocated by the TUC, and by 1977 government expenditure rose to 40,000 millions. The only trouble was that unemployment also rose to 1,600,000. The last Labour Prime Minister, Mr. Callaghan in a moment of candour, stated that unemployment was due to "fundamental structural problems in the world economy". It is these structural problems that are constantly being attacked and exposed by Socialists.

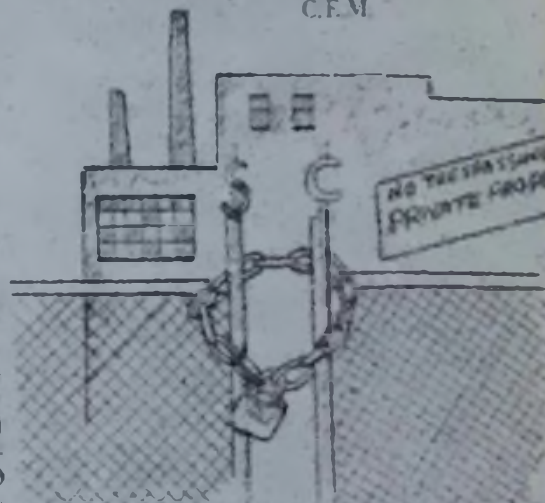
THIS society is based on an economy where production is geared to the market and the profit motive. Why else would a world waste its resources

as it does, whilst a majority of mankind go without the essentials of life. Under capitalism, human needs take second place. Basically, unemployment is not caused by politicians: it is the logical development of private property relationships and will always remain a problem as long as these relationships continue.

The SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA claim that unemployment can only be solved by adopting our revolutionary approach. The whole damn shooting match must go. Why not a world, with its vast riches, potential and beauty being communally owned and democratically controlled? Where the sole reason for producing is to satisfy human needs. A world where unemployment as we know it today, would along with unemployment, be a thing of the past. In a Socialist society, we shall work according to our ability and take according to our needs.

THIS is not a dream, but the only practical solution to world problems. You've tried everything else, and it has been found wanting. Find out more about us; it is your future!

C.F.M.



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SOCIALISM & TRADE UNIONS

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Who Financed Hitler?

The Secret Funding Of Hitler's Rise To Power 1919-1933"
by James Pool. \$12.95 published by Dial Press, New York

The significant thing about this book is that it does much more than the title suggests: it shows the Nazis rise to power, and many relevant aspects of it, in relation to the economic conditions prevailing in Germany at the time.

For too many books have been written putting great stress on Hitler's mental imbalance, idiosyncrasies, paranoia etc. etc. and showing how all this affected his decision making. This type of writing helps to perpetuate the myth that men make history in accordance with their will. The authors who indeed portray Hitler as a very astute political tactician, and a man of boundless confidence in his foresight. He frequently shunned comparison with opponents when it would have been expedient for a short while, if he thought it would be disastrous in the long run, and was invariably proved right.

However, all this is by the by, because the Nazi movement was a logical development of the particular conditions of life in the Weimar Republic. Much of the early fundings of the Nazis came from small businessmen, shop-keepers and small farmers, who were being ruined by the runaway inflation of the early 1920's. Another important source of funds was from the pockets of the rank and file party members who were obligated to pay admission fees for meetings, levy uniforms, insignia, pamphlets and so forth.

As the Nazis gradually became more powerful they began to offer (almost) all things to (almost) all people and to attract support from outside Germany. Many wealthy exiled Russians, particularly the nobility in Romanov times contributed extremely generously, because of the Nazis anti-Bolshevik propaganda.

An intriguing chapter is the one about Henry Ford. An early financial contributor, the authors tend to suggest this was because he admired the anti-semitic stories the Nazis had taken, in fact they credit Ford with being the first person to put anti-semitism on a racial, as opposed to a religious basis,

thereby claiming the Nazis learned something from him! though much of this was undoubtedly true, this reviewer wonders if his support could have been because the Nazis, once in power would repeal the Versaille Treaty and a Ford plant would have been built in Germany. In 1921 a Ford executive turned Germany to locate a possible site for a fond plant.

Contrary to what many believe, the Nazis for most of the time covered in the book, did not enjoy the support of the Capitalist class in Germany as a whole.

The term Capitalist class does not imply a homogeneous entity, various groups are within it, heavy industry, commerce and finance and long farming etc. and all have different economic (hence political interests). They merely appear as a single unit when involved in the prosecution of "their common interests," such as the robbery of as much wealth as possible from the working class.

The authors go into great detail when explaining the antagonisms between the various sections of the Capitalist class, particularly that between heavy and light industry. Owing to German Capitalist defeat in the First War and the crippling terms of the Versaille Treaty there was only so much (or so little) raw materials available, and a very limited market for their products. This antagonism was necessarily reflected in the political life of Germany in the Weimar Republic: the authors deal with all the parties contending for power at the time and verify (unintentionally maybe) our claim that "all parties are but an expression of class interests". One must be aware of their differences to understand day by day political aspirations, as well as Hitler's ability to utilize the divisions within the Capitalist class, for his own advantage.

The terms of the Versaille Treaty are also dealt with, involving Britain's attempt (successful until the war) to ruin Germany as a rival for control of the worlds merchant shipping business.

Another interesting chapter is the one entitled "Bribes and Blackmail", which

in essence would have been written about present day politicians in the so called democratic countries.

On the whole this is an excellent work, thoroughly readable for anyone who wishes to discover what caused the Nazis rise to power. However, a few critical points deserve comment, the authors not being scientific Socialists view the German Communist Party, as a Communist party, not as the German apologists for Russia Capitalists class - a fact which contributed to their failure to capture power (even though Hitler would never use the term Russia's Capitalist Class).

Though their work is excellent as far as it goes, it doesn't go far enough. They are able to perceive that the German Capitalist class eventually realized it was in their interest to support a ruthless and brutal form of administration which would capture lost raw materials and markets, their very life blood. However, not being Socialists they are unable to draw the logical conclusions and slip into moralising positions, which could be summed up thusly - "don't give any money to these types of organisations and they won't get power."

These points not withstanding, it is a fine work and verifies the Marxist claim that men do indeed make history, not not totally in accordance with their will but from the cloth to hand.

Ray Rawling



DIRECTORY

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SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA

OBJECT The establishment of a system of
society based upon the common ownership and
democratic control of the means and instruments
for producing and distributing wealth by and in
the interest of the whole community.

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

The Socialist Party of Canada holds:

1. That Society as it presently constituted is based
upon the ownership of the means of produc-
tion, i.e. land, factories, railways, etc., by the
capitalist or master class, and the consequent
concentration of the working class, by which labour
alone wealth is produced.

2. That in society, therefore, there is an
antagonism of interests, manifesting itself as a
class struggle, between those who possess but do
not produce, and those who produce but do not
possess.

3. That this antagonism can be abolished only
by the emancipation of the working class from the
domination of the master class by the conversion
into the common property of society of the means
of production and distribution, and their
democratic control by the whole people.

4. That as in the order of social evolution the
working class is the last class to achieve its
freedom, the emancipation of the working class
will involve the emancipation of all mankind
without distinction of race or sex.

5. That this emancipation must be the work of
the working class itself.

6. That as the machinery of government,
including the armed forces of the nation, exists
only to conserve the monopoly of the capitalist
class of the wealth taken from the workers, the
working class must organize continuously and
politically for the conquest of the power of
government, national and local, in order that this
machinery, including these forces, may be
converted from an instrument of oppression into
the agent of emancipation and the overthrow of
privilege, aristocracy and plutocracy.

7. That as all political parties are for the
expression of class interests, and as the interests of
the working class is justifiably opposed to the
interest of all sections of the master class, the parti-
cular working-class emancipation best re-
sponse to every other party.

8. The Socialist Party of Canada therefore
enters the field of political action determined to
expel our present capitalist political parties
and to establish a new system of government
and to call upon the members of the working class to
organize under their banner to overthrow the present
system of government and to establish a new system
whereby the means of production and distribution
shall be given to the whole people, and whereby
the power of government shall be given to the whole
people.

Anyone agreeing with the above prin-
ciples and wishing to contribute to the
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headquarters is invited.

Letters

to the Editor

MEDICARE LINE-UPS

The rebuking of Mary E. Mowat's eye surgery to Feb. 24th. was understandably traumatic. (*Times letter Jan. 11th*). Especially when there is no guarantee it will not be postponed again. But her motherhood recommendation to upgrade hospitals equates a breath against a wind storm of mass unawareness.

Protest can ease government financial cut-back pressure in isolated instances, as the recent Jubilee Hospital case confirms. But the ridiculous situation there prevails, as in other hospitals cross country. The indications are that the financial screws that regulate all "wealth and welfare" departments are to be tightened further during 'the eighties.

When the bloom was on the boom hospital care was far from being humanitarian, both in its method and its use of available technology, despite the heroism of doctors and nurses struggling under multiplying terms of reference. The deterioration of the former anti-social standards brought on by the present world recession accentuates the fact that hospitals are another institution under the sway of the ten per cent of the population that owns and controls the means of life. When one understands that "social" services are state wage subsidies, it is easy to see why they are cut back when the trough in the business cycle requires the maintenance of fewer willing hands and minds to operate the profit making machinery of production and distribution.

Contrary to Mary Mowat's idealistic concept it is not the responsibility of the Social Credit government to use provincial profits to provide workers with the best hospital care, no more than it is the responsibility of any other government on earth. Governments are responsible only to the owners of capital, who finance them directly and indirectly. To use profits to expand capital.

Consequently, voting for the recycled Liberal and Conservative ideas of the NDP or extreme leftist or rightist parties is a furtherance of passive discontent, as if the past record of these organizations in office was necessary as evidence.

The advocacy of common (not state) ownership and democratic control is the direction of political attack on the cause of social problems. It is the logical outcome of an understanding of the nature of the present world social system. Anyone who wants to enhance his or her perception of the beast may do so by writing the Socialist Party of Canada, Box 4280 A, V8X 3X8 for material.

WAR

The subject of war probably takes second place only to mortgages and instalment payments in popular concern. Especially at the beginning of a new year when political introspection seems to be more relevant.

On this problem, Steve Szalai's Dec. 6th. letter was eye catching, with its recommendation that the government simply give 40,000 of the unemployed \$14,000 each for five years instead of ordering the construction of General Dynamics' job creating fighter planes. Aside from the old hat myth of investment for job creation, Szalai could have made a point by balancing the 20,000 potential jobs with the X number of potential legal murders made possible by these destructive machines.

But he is still dealing with effects when he says that armed forces make war inevitable. What causes armed forces? In this respect, war mongering McDonnell Douglas, the other weapons manufacturer cited by the pacifist, upstaged him. In its Dec. 3 Maclean's ad it emphasized, "Keeping The Sea Lanes Free Lanes." In other words, freighters and tankers transport commodities to markets and raw materials to factories. To protect its trade routes, markets and sources of materials or to expand them, every country must have armed forces. The cause of war is to be found in the economics of the present world social organization, involving the production of goods for sale/profit.

Szalai's call to work for peace is encouraging, but even if his recommendation that everyone voice objection to tax dollars being spent on war was valid, it is easily nullified by his belief that this nation is "our's". Example: just prior to the first world war, 11 million English "passivists" signed an anti-war petition. A few months later many of them were in the trenches stopping the wicked Germans from taking "their" country away from them. The real owners of England and Germany were at home of course, counting their dividends while their obedient servants slaughtered each other to protect their respective bosses' markets and resources.

Steve Szalai is invited to start opposing war, by first penetrating the mysteries of today's social structure, of which war is an unabordable part.

In the B.C. Legislature.

Inflation

The Times report of March 4 had the NDP laughing at Social MLA Peter Hyndman's proposed motion in the House to have each NDP MLA reject the Waffle Manifesto. As Charles Barber said, the radical Waffle Group was driven out of the NDP ten years ago. But Barber was off the mark when he attributed "funny money" only to the Major Douglas originator of Social Credit (And what could be more anti-social than credit?)

The fact is, the early CCF also advocated the printing press solution to the great depression in its Regina Manifesto. That a excess government issue of currency is an attempt to stimulate the economy. The Keynesian theory has been followed by Liberal and Conservative federal governments since the second World War ended, with no objection from the NDP. The result has not been a boom, but stagflation, resulting a greater hardship for the wage working majority in society.

B.C.'s two prominent anti-people parties seem to think the negative practice of calling each other bad names will ensure votes in the next election. Rather than being attracted to this shallow entertainment, the wage workers should think about the alternative, a social arrangement in which all processes function in the interests of all. This of course means democratic control which goes with common (not state) ownership of the means of production and distribution.

The Socialist Party of Canada (Box 4280 A, V8X 3X8) is ready and willing to assist.

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